

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please amend Figures 3B, 5 and 6 by replacing drawing sheets 3/16 and 6/16 with attached drawing Replacement Sheets 3/16 and 6/16.

Remarks

Applicant requests favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1–4, 15 and 16 are pending in the application, with Claim 1 being the sole independent claim. Claim 1 has been amended herein to further clarify features of the invention, and sections of the specification have been amended to correct minor grammatical and typographical errors. These changes add no new matter.

In the above-identified Office Action, the drawings were objected to because reference character 150 has been used to designate both an input receptacle in paragraph 72 and an interconnect module in paragraph 77, and because they do not include reference signs 65, 82, and 85. Applicant has hereby amended paragraph 72 of the disclosure, inasmuch as reference numeral 150 as used therein should read 50. Regarding the omitted reference numerals 65, 82, and 85, Applicant submits herewith drawing Replacement Sheets 3/16 and 6/16, in which figures have been amended to include those reference numerals. Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections to the drawings are hereby requested.

The Office Action also objects to the title of the invention, as allegedly not being descriptive. Applicant has amended the title herein to read “MODULE FOR OPERABLE INTERCONNECTION WITHIN AN ELECTRICAL SYSTEM.” Favorable consideration of the new title is requested.

Claims 1–4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,045,374 (Candeloro). Moreover, Claims 15 and 16 stand rejected under

35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable over Candeloro in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,347,095 (Zeder). Applicant traverses these rejections.

In an aspect of Applicant's invention, independent Claim 1 recites a module for operable interconnection within an electrical system. The module features a housing defining an exterior and a sealed interior precluding non-destructive access to the interior. The housing exterior includes a male power input receptacle, a female power output receptacle, and a female load receptacle. The male power input receptacle has a plurality of blades, the blades being recessed relative to an adjacent portion of the housing. The female power output receptacle is electrically interconnected in parallel with the male power input receptacle. The female load receptacle is electrically interconnected to the male power input receptacle and receives a load to be powered by power input to the module via the male power input receptacle.

Applicant submits that many of these features are not taught or suggested by the cited patents, whether taken alone or in proper combination.

Candeloro relates to an electrical wiring system. For example, Figure 1 of that patent shows a wiring strip 22 for use with a connector 24. The connector 24 includes a body 60 and three connecting through prongs 68 formed on either side thereof. When the wiring strip 22 is interconnected with the connector 24, electricity supplied by the wiring strip 22 to one side of the connector 24 is conducted through the connector 24 to a wiring strip 22 disposed on the opposite side of the connector.

Figure 10 shows another embodiment of the Candeloro patent. In that Figure, male prongs are arranged in a side of an electrical outlet box. A wiring strip 22 is connectable to these male prongs, to introduce electricity to the outlet. Thus, as shown in Figure 10, electricity is introduced to the outlet box via the male prongs 158

from an electrical strip and a load may then be plugged into the receptacles 156 on the face of the outlet 150. Moreover, as shown in Figures 11 and 12, Candeloro contemplates the introduction of electricity via wire strip 22 to a light switch 170.

In a still further embodiment of Candeloro, Figures 23 and 24 depict an outlet having multiple through prongs 332 disposed at sides of the outlet and blade connectors 333, 334 and 335 for connection to an already existing outlet. In this manner, when the outlet of Figures 23 and 24 is plugged into an existing outlet, not only may the plugs be used for powering a load, but the male connectors 332 may also be used to further convey electricity downstream of the outlet.

Thus, according to Candeloro, electrical inputs and outputs supplied in an outlet or similar device are provided via the male connectors. However, nowhere does Candeloro teach or suggest at least the male power input receptacle, female power output receptacle, and female load receptacle as set forth in independent Claim 1. Specifically, nowhere does that patent teach that a female power output receptacle is electrically interconnected in parallel with a male power input receptacle, and that a female lead receptacle is electrically interconnected to the male power input receptacle.

Zeder is disclosed only for teaching features of dependent claims. Accordingly, and without conceding the propriety of the Office Action's characterization of Zeder, Applicant submits that Zeder does nothing to remedy the deficiencies of Candeloro discussed above.

For the forgoing reasons, Applicant submits that independent Claim 1 recites features that patentably define Applicant's invention over the cited patents. Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections to Claim 1 thus are requested.

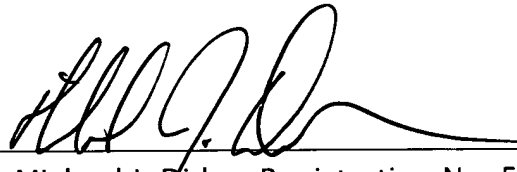
The remaining claims depend from independent Claim 1 and are deemed allowable by virtue of this dependency, as well as for reciting other patentable features of Applicant's invention. Applicant requests favorable and independent consideration of the dependent claims.

Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the objections and rejections, and an early notice of allowance are requested.

If necessary, Applicant's below-signed attorney may be reached by telephone at 585-232-6500.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: April 28, 2006

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael J. Didas', is written over a horizontal line.

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